THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The communication and navigation facilities at airports are constantly modernised in a phased manner either by replacement of old technology equipment or by provision of new facilities.

Reservation in Indian Universities for the children of NRIs

2350. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce reservation for the children of Non-resident Indians in the Indian Universities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) No such proposal is at present under the consideration of the Government.

(c) The University Grants Comission which considered a suggestion to reserve seats for the children of NRIs in the Universities in the country, felt that such reservation would not be appropriate. The Commission however felt that steps could be considered for relaxing the time schedule for submission of applications by NRIs, and assisting them by providing information on equivalence of qualifications obtained by their children in foreign countries, etc.

Fatal accidents on National Highway No. 1

2351. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to divert the National Highway Number one from out of the Allahabad city due to increase in the number of fatal accidents during the last three years;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. National Highway No. 1 does not pass through the Allahabad city. Length of National Highway No. 2 passing through Allahabad city is, however, being considered for improvement as a suitable urban link.

Trains from Dehradun to Kanyakumari

2352. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of pilgrims/tourists/defence personnels, who have to travel from Hardwar/Dehradun to Kanyakumari via Allahabad, are put to great difficulty in the absence of a direct train from Dehradun to Kanyakumari;

(b) whether Government have received any representations for starting a train, Uttara Khand Express from Dehradun to Kanyakumari via Hardwar and Allahabad;

(c) if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(d) if no action has been taken what are the reasons therefor.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Representations have been received for running a direct train from Kanyakumari to Dehradun.

(c) and (d) Not found feasible at present due to operational constraints.

Vayudoot service in Gujarat

2353. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM: be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vayudoot service would start operating at stipulated stations in Gujarat, if so, by when and the details thereof; and

(b) what are the terms and conditions for chartering Vayudoot flights for official and non-official agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Vayudoot is at present operating 7 stations in the State of Gujarat namely—Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Kandla, Porbandar, Keshod Surat and Rajkot. Subject to availability of aircraft capacity, development of infrastructure and economic viability of operations, plans are a foot to airlink Dwarka during the 7th Plan period.

(b) The terms and conditions for Vayudoot charters are as follows:—

1. Chartering is subject to availability of aircraft.

2. Route/flying time will be determined on the shortest possible route specified by Director General of Civil Aviation.

3. In case of one way travel, to and fro charges from the point of origin would be payable.

4. The total payload available would be subject to routing and technical halts.

5. Vayudoot will operate to approved airports of National Airports Authority/Directorate General of Civil Aviation only.

6. The total cost of chartering of aircraft would be payable in advance.

Rail link to backward and tribal area of Madhya Pradesh

2354. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the backward and tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh are not linked with rail lines; and

(b) whether Government propose to link these areas with rail lines for their faster development, if so, what are the details thereof

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The existing rail lines in Madhya Pradesh serve some of the backward and tribal areas through which they pass. Besides the following new lines projects are under progress in Madhya Pradesh. These will also link up with more of such areas:

1. Guna-Etawah (348 Km)

2. Satna-Rewa (50 Km)

3. Kota-Chittaurgarh-Nimach BG line (222 Km of which 16 Km is in Madhya Pradesh).

Archaeological Survey of Madhya Pradesh State

2355. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any survey of Archaeological sights, ancient monuments and architecture of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details of the sights, monuments and architecture being preserved by Government;

(c) whether Government have taken ovr the control of all important sights,